

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of April 06, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach

Note: This meeting was held on Zoom only

Board members in attendance by Zoom were Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members Attending on Zoom

Additional members attending on Zoom were Cat Attack, Alex Griswold, Jimmy Hall, Mike Hinman, and Rich Marrello.

No guests attended the meeting tonight.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

George Sawyer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill had technical problems and could not be heard on the Zoom meeting. John Spach gave the Treasurer's report in place of Schaefer. Very little change since last month, only a small increase in funds.

Schaefer O'Neill joined the meeting late and answered questions about the Treasurer's report.

5. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard noted that we have recently received several donations, the largest one being from James Bunn. This was a large donation of mostly N, O, and G, but we have not totally explored the contents. There may be more surprises for us to discover in the more than 30 boxes of items.

Ken also noted that Phil Michaud received a donation at the Cary show. We were able to get some stuff out of that donation.

We have also had a couple of other drop off donations of varying quality and scale. There have also been significant donations of books. This can be noted by the quantity of books for sale in the Crew Lounge.

Richard Calfee noted that he had received a call from a gentleman wanting to stop by the Club and wondering if we could accommodate parking for a pickup truck and a 35 foot camper. George Sawyer stated that he had also talked to this person and told him we could

not accommodate parking of such a big vehicle, especially during our normal hours of operation.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that we have two applications for membership. One is for a Youth member that should be voted on at the next Membership meeting. We are hoping to get more applications at the May Open House.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

Nothing to report.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Nothing to report.

HO – Ken Howard reported that

- The plaster work on Mt. Witwer was completed over the weekend.
- Greg Rehe will begin putting down earth washes to bring color to the mountain.
- Mains 1 and 2 are both finished
- Work continues on the staging tracks under the mountain.
- The wyes have been completed and are awaiting the installation of new control panels.
- Mike Hinman installed a switch on the long siding on Main 1. This allows users to turn off power while placing a train on that track.
- There are a number of other projects proceeding slowly.
- We will see additional work approved at the next HO committee meeting.

S gauge – John Spach reported that several surplus items have been sold and we are awaiting a check.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that he is looking for a tender that disappeared from the layout recently. George also stated that he has people to help him at the Open House.

e. Program – John Spach reported that he has the program this month on a visit to the largest indoor train layout in the world.

Tom Garren noted that Randy Foulke sent him a text stating that he had someone back out of doing the May program, but he believes he has a replacement lined up.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer gave the report for the Spring show

- Bob has prepared a preliminary financial estimate for the Spring show.
- We are at 330 tables
- We have offered Sipping and Switching the back 25,000 square feet of floor space. We are waiting to hear back from them.
- It looks like we will have 11 layouts at the Spring show. Some have been lost due to a lack of people over the holiday weekend.
- A small profit is estimated for the Spring show. It should be noted that there is a \$7,7700 increase in cost from the Fairgrounds based on the move to the larger building and the increased rental rate for the building.
- Bernie Dawson will be phoning members to line up the volunteers needed to staff the show.

b. Hot Water

Ken Howard asked for a report on progress about getting a water heater installed in the Clubhouse.

John Spach said we do not have a report tonight, and Schaefer O'Neill cannot be heard on Zoom tonight. Look for an update later.

8. New Business

a. Nominating Committee

George Sawyer gave a report from the Nominating committee. This report will also be given at the Membership meeting where nominations from the floor can be made. The nominations will then be closed and the election held at the May Membership meeting.

Tom Garren suggested that since we have two seats open on the Board and three members interested in serving, we should go with the top two vote getters winning the seats. The person with the most votes will get the three-year term, and the person with the second most votes will get the remaining two-year term. Several members supported Tom's suggestion.

9. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.